

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Araki et al.

Group Art Unit: 3623

Serial No.: 09/753,728

Examiner: Susanna M. Meinecke DIAZ

Filed: January 3, 2001

For: WORK ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD, DISTRIBUTED  
CLIENT/SERVER SYSTEM, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM STORAGE  
MEDIUM

Confirmation No. 3779

Docket No. 1232-4672

Customer No. 27123

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Mail Stop \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The items listed on Form PTO-1449, a copy of which is enclosed, are made of record to assist the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider the items and to independently ascertain their teaching.

1. ☒ For each of the following items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, an English language translation of that item or a portion thereof or a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is enclosed:  
DE 1 449 073, JP 7-224534
2. ☐ For each of the following items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is incorporated in the specification of the above-identified application.
3. ☐ Any copy of the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement was previously cited by or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_.

4. ☐ No fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with:
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1), within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a CPA; or
  - ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(2), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; or
  - ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits; or
  - ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(4) before the mailing date of a first office action after the filing of an RCE under §1.114.
5. ☒ No fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), after the period specified in paragraph 4 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance (where there has been no prior final action), and is accompanied by one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 9 below.
6. ☐ A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), after the period specified in paragraph 4 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a notice of allowance (where there has been no prior final action):
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee.
  - ☐ Charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. \_\_\_\_\_. A  
DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.
7. ☐ A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d), after the mailing date of a final action or a notice of allowance, whichever comes first, but before payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by:
- a. one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 9 below; and
  - b. the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) which is paid as set forth in paragraph 11 below.
8. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in compliance with:
- a. ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(3) or §1.313(c)(1), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement may render at least one claim unpatentable and is accompanied by the attached Petition To Withdraw Application From Issue and fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.17(h);
  - b. ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.313(c)(2) or §1.313(c)(3), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement is to be considered in a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) or a Continuation application

upon abandonment of the instant application and is accompanied by the attached Petition To Withdraw Application From Issue and fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.17(h).

- c. ☐ The fee due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.17(h) is paid as set forth in paragraph 11 below.
9. ☒ I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☐ I hereby certify that no item of information in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
10. ☒ This document is accompanied by ☐ a Search Report ☒ Communication which was cited in a corresponding ☐ PCT or ☒ Foreign counterpart application
11. ☐ A check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed in payment of the fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.17(h) and 1.17(p).
- ☐ Charge the fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.17(h) and 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. \_\_\_\_\_. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Information Disclosure Statement, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4672. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Dated: July 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,  
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

By: Matthew K. Blackburn

Matthew K. Blackburn  
Registration No. 47,428

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- c. ☐ The fee due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.17(h) is paid as set forth in paragraph 11 below.
9. ☒ I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☐ I hereby certify that no item of information in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
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<b>FORM PTO-1449</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b>		Attorney Docket: 1232-4672		Serial No.: 09/753,728			
		Applicant: ARAKI et al.					
		Filing Date: January 3, 2001		Group Art Unit: 3623			
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
<b>Examiner Initial</b>		<b>Patent Number</b>	<b>Issue Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Sub-Class</b>	<b>Filing Date</b>
	1						
	2						
	3						
	4						
	5						
	6						
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
<b>Examiner Initial</b>		<b>Patent Number</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Sub-Class</b>	<b>Translation</b>
	A	1 449 073	06/04/1970	Germany			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	B	7-224534	08/22/1995	Japan			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	C						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
							<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
							<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
							<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
							<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, etc.)</b>							
	AA	German Patent Office Communication, dated 06 April 2006, for Application No. 101 00 212.2-53					
	BB	Translation of German Patent Office Communication for Application No. 101 00 212.2-53 (Item AA)					
	CC	German Patent Office Communication, dated 10 April 2006, for Application No. 101 00 276.9-53					
	DD	Translation of German Patent Office Communication for Application No. 101 00 276.9-53 (Item CC)					
	EE	Machine Translation of DE 1 449 073 (Item A)					
	FF	Patent Abstracts of Japan for JP 07-224534 (Item B)					
	GG						
	HH						
Examiner				Date Considered			
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.							